

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2013

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

Present: (4) Asprocolas, Butch, Dancer, Peck

Absent: (2) Halka-Posten, Pinhas

## Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to approve the September 4, 2012, minutes; Roll call vote:

Ayes: (2) Butch, Peck

Nays: (0)

A Motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the November 5, 2012, minutes; Roll call vote:

Ayes: (2) Asprocolas, Butch

Nays: (0)

**Public Comment:** No public in attendance.

## Reorganization

### ➤ Appointments

- Resolution No. 13-19 appoints Thomas Dancer to seat number 2, Randy Peck to seat number 3, Shirley Pinhas to seat 4 and Kate Halka-Posten as Alternate 1. All appointments are for two year terms commencing 1/1/13 and ending 12/31/14.
- Resolution No. 13-20 appoints Tom Dancer as the Millstone Township representative to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board for 2013.

### ➤ Election of Officers

- Ms. Butch made a Motion to nominate Mr. Asprocolas for Chairperson with a Second offer by Mr. Peck. Mr. Asprocolas accepted the nomination. Seeing no other nomination and with all in favor, the Motion was carried.
- Mr. Asprocolas made a Motion to nominate Mr. Peck for Vice Chairperson with a Second offer by Ms. Butch. Seeing no other nominations and with all in favor, the Motion was carried.

### ➤ Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2013

- Mr. Peck made a Motion to adopt the following schedule of meetings for 2013 and the first meeting of 2014 with a Second offered by Ms. Butch and all in favor; Motion carried. Meetings will only be held if there is new or urgent business to discuss.

January 7, 2013  
February 4, 2013  
March 4, 2013  
April 1, 2013  
May 6, 2013  
June 3, 2013

July 2, 2013\*  
August 6, 2013\*  
September 3, 2013\*  
October 1, 2013\*  
November 4, 2013  
December 2, 2013  
January 13, 2014\*\*

- \* The July through October meetings occur on Tuesdays.
- \*\* Meeting on the second Monday of the month to accommodate for the Township Committee reorganization meeting.

➤ **Designation of Official Newspapers**

- Mr. Asprocolas made a Motion to designate the Asbury Park Press and the Messenger Press as the Council's official newspapers with a Second offered by Mr. Peck and all in favor; Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

- **Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Program:** The Township was awarded the matching grant for re-erecting the Allen Barn and carriage house at the Thomas Baird Homestead. Funds from the Open Space Trust will be used for the project and the Trust will be reimbursed when the grant money is received at the completion of the project. Architects, Bach & Clark, offered services at no charge; Avakian Engineering has offered services at no charge; Mark Blackwell volunteered to be general contractor at no charge. Ms. Butch will take care of all paperwork. Mr. Blackwell is organizing relocating the windmill from the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture. A water source is needed for the ADA bathroom; perhaps the irrigation well can be re-purposed for potable water and the line can be run to the house if needed in the future. A natural gas line may be needed to heat the bathroom. Ms. Butch will contact Tony Romano regarding running a natural gas line. Tom Pado will design all plumbing to code. The orientation of the barn needs to be determined; Joann Kelty researched the barn and believes that animals were housed below with hay stored above. The New Jersey Barn Company believes the carriage house was a wainwright's shop and that the second floor was not original to the structure and suggested not putting the second floor back on when re-erecting. All work, with the exception of donated work, needs to go out to bid. Mr. Dancer mentioned that it would be advantageous to put a concrete floor down in the pole barn. A tractor has been donated to the museum; Mr. Dancer explained that it is in very good condition and should be simple to restore. Ms. Butch asked Mr. Dancer to provide more information about the tractors that will be on display and to provide estimates for tractors that need to be restored. Ms. Butch suggested contacting local businesses that sell or service tractors, to sponsor restorations. Mr. Asprocolas explained that there are at least four deer living at the property and some of the shrubs show signs of deer damage. He suggested getting the FFA involved in

digging up the shrubs and selling them. The money from the sale of the shrubs would go towards the maintenance of the property and the FFA would keep any tips from digging up/transporting the shrubs; this would be a good learning experience for the FFA and it will help clear the property. Ms. Butch will put this suggestion on the agenda for the February Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Butch explained how the monthly expenses are being handled and current needs that are being addressed by the Friends group.

- **Outgoing correspondence:** The Secretary will prepare two thank you letters; one to the Open Space Council for donating money from the clambake fundraisers and one to the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture for their \$500 donation towards the barn dismantling project.

### Old Business

- **OEM Issues:** Ms. Butch passed information provided by Dr. Palmer at the November 4, 2012, meeting on to the OEM group.
- **Farm Leases:** The current three year farm lease at Millstone Park expires 7/31/13. One area may be pulled out of the lease for recreation fields. The Township needs to determine recreation needs and the Ag Council needs to provide input regarding farming needs. At this time, it looks like the bid package will be ready in March with a due date at the end of April.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** There is a meeting at Rick's Saddle Shop on Thursday (1/10/13) to discuss the tax. The legislation was poorly written but the Governor doesn't want to repeal it and risk losing tax revenue. The legislation is difficult to interpret and there is no consistency among businesses with how the tax is being applied.
- **Agriculture Museum:** Discussed under Correspondence.
- **Community Map Fundraiser:** The last of the information is being submitted. This was an easy fundraiser that brought in approximately \$10,000.

### New Business

- **Open Space & Ag Council Newsletter:** Suggestions for articles include:
  - The barn project
  - The Trapani farm and honey business
  - Funding for future farmland preservation programs
  - Support local agriculture
  - Jersey Fresh and Jersey Grown
- **Rutgers Board of Managers:** Ms. Butch announced that she has been appointed Chair of the Budget and Advocacy Group which is pushing for production agriculture funding from the experiment station. Ms. Butch asked Council members for input on what type of research Rutgers should be doing. Mr. Peck suggested sustainability and profitability since Rutgers has an economic department.

- **Upcoming Events:** The 2013 New Jersey State Agriculture Convention will be held on February 6 and 7 in Atlantic City. Mr. Asprocolas and Ms. Butch, who is now the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Vice President, will be attending.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher, Council Secretary